California GARDEN

FORTY-SEVENTH YEAR **WINTER 1956** VOLUME 47, NO. 4

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For use of the Floral Building, Floral Association groups and affiliates are asked to check the calendar with our House Chairman.

CALIFORNIA GARDEN

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Wanted: Back issues of California Garden from 1909 to 1916 and Spring, 1952. Please send to Miss Alice M. Greer for files.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS: *Visitors Always Welcome*

Floral Building will be open every Tuesday, from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., when our president, Mrs. Kenneally, will be available for consultation

Calendar of Events

Tuesday, December 18 . . . 8 p.m.
Christmas Party, Recital Hall, Balboa Park
Combined meeting of the Affiliated Garden Club and Floral Association members. Varied entertainment program provided by each group. Music and refreshments.

Tuesday, January 15 . . . 8 p.m.
Rose Program, to be announced.

Monday, January 28 . . . 9:30 a.m.
Flower Arrangement Class, Floral Building
Instructor: Mrs. J. R. Kirkpatrick
First of new series meeting on
Fourth Monday of each month
Call Mrs. R. S. Hoyt, CY 6-2757

Saturday and Sunday, February 16, and 17
Camellia Show, by San Diego Camellia Society at Recital Hall.

Tuesday, February 19, Floral Building
Program to be announced.

Garden Clubs — Notice

Affiliate membership in the San Diego Floral Association is available to all garden clubs within the city limits of San Diego. Annual dues of $10.00 entitles an affiliate to representation on the executive board of the Floral Association, two subscriptions to California Garden, and week-end flower shows in the Floral Building. An additional fee of $15.00, for the building maintenance fund, entitles an organization to the use of the building for meetings and to the use of another building in the park for a flower show. Garden clubs interested are asked to write a letter petitioning affiliate membership.

Membership in the San Diego Floral Association includes a subscription to California Garden. Classification of memberships: Annual, $3.00; Family, $5.00; Sustaining, $5.00; Contributing, $25.00; and Life Membership, $100.00. Memberships and gifts are deductible from income tax.

STATEMENT OF THE OWNERSHIP MANAGEMENT AND CIRCULATION REQUIRED BY THE ACT OF CONGRESS OF AUGUST 24, MARCH 3, 1933, AND JULY 2, 1946 (Title 39, United States Code, Section 233) of CALIFORNIA GARDEN published Quarterly at San Diego, California, for Winer 1956. Publisher: San Diego Floral Association, Balboa Park, San Diego, California. Editor: Alice M. Clark.

California Garden

FORTY-SEVENTH YEAR WINTER, 1956 VOL. 47, NO. 4

Leaves from the Observers Notebook

Marion Almy Lippitt

Henry had that Spaniel look—long-eared and sad-eyed.

Breezing by, I dumped my armful of Christmas-wrapped packages on the sofa beside him and sat myself down.

He looked up from his book mournfully. "Who or what 'besieges you with sable-colored melancholy?' " I asked in a gay tone.

"Yearning for snow, I guess," he answered.

"Since 'for every wherefore there is a why,' and wherefore we are in Southern California partially to avoid snow, why the yearnings for it?" I finished out of breath.

Henry delayed his answer by remarking, "You sound as involved as a John Daley explanation in T.V.'s 'What's My Line.' "

"No comments, please. Just answer the question."

"What question? You lost me some time ago."

"The question of why the why!"

"Oh that, purred Henry. "I'll tell you." And pedantically placing his finger-tips together he launched forth.

"Well, it dates way, way back in autobiographical history. It happened every year. I would look out of the window—and there it would be—falling snow. Gradually the sound of the city streets would become muffled, and then obliterated altogether. If the next day were Saturday it would mean a weekend in the country coasting and bobsledding."

"Still you haven't really answered why the yearning for snow? Surely you don't yearn to coast and bobsled."

"Only mildly. I really yearn for the sense of solitude that a snow-covered landscape brings."

Here Henry rose and began to pace the floor. I removed my hat, twirled it onto the opposite chair, patted my hair into place, and leaned back to enjoy what I knew was coming—the rare moment of Henry wrestling with the abstract!

He continued to pace the living room until, like a ship docking, he gradually slowed down and slid to berth in front of the fireplace. He grasped the mantelpiece with both hands and gazed into the glowing fire. His face relaxed and cheer came into his eyes.

"To begin with," he said "in a snow-covered landscape there is no unpleasing line or form. Visible perfection creates an invisible perfect stillness with a covering of tiny snowflakes of perfect design."

Truly I was amazed at the profundity and simplicity of his observation. I wanted him to continue so I said, "Just the yearning for snow didn't start that train of thought. Tell me more."

"Well, no, it wasn't only the snow. This morning I went over to the church to help arrange the Christmas flowers. While there I suddenly longed for a bit of solitude in which to do some solid thinking."

"What did you do?"

"I came home through the garden to see if my snowdrops were blooming yet."

"Why?" I asked for the second time.

"Because when I see the dot of green on each petal of the snowdrop, I know there is a God and that he is gay and wise and altogether lovely."

"The beauty of holiness." I murmured. I felt it was my turn to put the benediction on our Christmas conversation. So I softly repeated aloud Irene Gubbins':

To A Snowdrop

"What thought of heaven within thy heart appears
To veil our eyes with sudden mist of tears?
What secret of immortal loveliness
Lies in the folded whiteness of thy dress?

We may not know the gentle ministry
Of thine appearing till aright we see
With inward vision shining through thy heart

The Love that formed thee separate and apart
From taint of earth and sorrowful decay,
Forever fair in His eternal day:
Thus God's undying universe we see
In the clear light of thy simplicity."

Henry still looking into the fire slowly nodded his assent.

Street Tree Problems

JEROME A. BELLEAU

Supervisor of Street Trees in San Diego

One of the most important aspects of tree planting as a part of city beautification is a recognition of the need for more education of the general public on the subject of trees and street trees specifically. One of the functions of the City's Street Tree Division of the Park and Recreation Department is to foster this understanding of the whys and wherefores of our Street Trees.

Unfortunately, the economic impact on our City of improper selection and placement of tree species has not been given much thought. Were this not so, we would not have the expensive removal problem we have with us today. Though the care and maintenance of street trees has been a function of the Park Division since 1932, the progress made has not been good. Perhaps the prime reason for this lack of progress is the apathy of the general public itself.

Prior to 1932 the City Street Tree Division was a part of the Public Works Department, Street Division. The section then comprised twenty-one (21) men and a supervisor. Their equipment comprised two trucks, a few wooden ladders and seasonally, a watering truck. Power equipment was unheard of.

In 1932 a charter revision made the Street Tree Section a part of what was then the Park Department. (Now Park and Recreation Department.) However, in making this change, the section was cut to seven (7) men and one supervisor. During the ensuing 24 years, as a part of the Park Division, the section has not managed to regain the size force it began with even though the demand for public service has multiplied.

The importance of retaining as large a part of our existing tree cover as is practical and a furtherance of new planting as a part of City beautification is just now beginning to assume the shape of a planned program. A part of the mission of the City's Street Tree Division then, is education of the general public to the necessity for planting proper species; guidance in the care of that phase of tree culture, which only the property owner can do—namely feeding and watering; and enforcement of those ordinances which specifically govern public trees.

The main mission of Street Trees and that which consumes the major part of the Division budget is that of street tree maintenance, the greater part of which is tree trimming.

To accomplish this function the Division has four (4) trimming crews, two (2) rope crews and one (1) removal crew. All crews are composed of a trimmer and helper. Two crews man the power ladder which is used exclusively for the trimming of the City's 40,000 odd palms; mostly Cocos Plumosa. This equipment, now completing its first year of operation, is equipped with air-powered tools for efficient operation. The remaining trimming crews are concerned primarily with routine trimming, such as street, sidewalk and traffic visibility clearance. Two rope crews do all extended limb work and pruning on the large specimen trees, including those located in all City Parks. There was practically none of this type maintenance done on City Trees prior to 1952 and accordingly the backlog of this type work is extremely heavy.

The removal crew is charged with the removal of dead, diseased and hazardous public trees and palms. Though the equipment for this operation is improvised, nevertheless approximately 1,000 trees and palms were removed last year. Both rope crews and the tree removal crew are equipped with power saws. Going into operation in the very near future, will be a chipper unit which will be a part of the power ladder unit. It will shred trimmed fronds etc., thereby reducing the volume of material so it can be composted instead of being hauled to sanitation fills for disposal.

Planning, control and direction of all street tree division functions is under the street tree supervisor, assisted by the tree trimmer foreman. The tree trimmer foreman, under direction of the division supervisor, supervises all Division crews, investigates service requests and inspects work done on City trees by utility company contractors. The Street Tree Supervisor makes recommendations for all street tree planting, coordinating activity between his Division and other City departments, establishes and maintains adequate public relations and formulates programs designed to further the mission of the Division. It is the Supervisor's responsibility to answer all questions relative to Street Trees and street tree problems.

We are often asked, "why control the planting of street trees?" The answer is that the annual cost of remedying poor street tree planting, is in excess of $20,000. There are innumerable public trees along our streets that, because of poor specie selection, have raised and broken the sidewalk and curb-

ing, entered the sewer mains and laterals, ruptured driveways and retaining walls, created blind corners and obscured traffic signs. With proper selection and placement, coupled with a planned and adequate maintenance program, much of this expense could have been avoided. The cost to the public in the loss of the trees cannot be estimated.

The City's policy regarding tree removals at City expense is, along with the standard of trimming service requested, the most controversial aspect of street tree work. The reason for this is undoubtedly because many property owners do not understand the overall City-wide problem regarding the removal of street trees.

To begin with, there are thousands more trees needing removal than present funds and manpower can take care of, in any given period. For example, if there are 2000 trees in a given area that justify removal, city forces can handle 25% of this number in the required time. Obviously the 500 trees removed will comprise only the most aggravated cases.

Tree conditions do not remain static. One year there may be little tree damage to adjacent facilities, another year it may become a public hazard. In addition, severe storms can seriously disrupt even the most carefully planned program. Consequently, the City cannot with certainty indicate to a property owner that removal will be made at a specific time in the future. The annexation to the City of the older built up areas also disrupts any removal schedule that may have been set up. The normal removal procedure is as follows:

Upon request from a property owner, or when tree problems are discovered by street tree personnel, or other City Departments, principally the Street Division of the Public Works Department, inspection of the tree or trees is made by the Street Tree Supervisor or the Tree Trimmer Foreman. If removal is warranted—and here is where considerable difference of opinion can occur between the requestor and those charged with making the decision—it is scheduled for the street tree removal crew. Regardless of the decision, the requestor is notified, by form letter usually, of the action, positive or negative, that is to be taken. Sometimes this involves the Street Tree Supervisor in unpleasant public relations. Obviously, such cases cannot always be resolved to the complete satisfaction of the property owner concerned.

In only those cases where the need is greatest is approval made and action taken. The above program does not satisfy, by any means, the need for caring for many existing street trees that have reached the removal stage, and each year brings on a crop of new ones. When removal is made by City forces, replacement of damaged sidewalk and curbing is made at City expense by Street Division crews. Aesthetic reasons have never constituted justification for removal at City expense.

When a property owner desires removal of a public tree adjacent to his property, at his own expense, the following procedure is followed:

The official "Application for Permit" is mailed to the property owner or agent upon written or phoned request. Upon receipt of the application filled out by the property owner or agent, an inspection of the subject tree is made by the Street Tree Foreman or Street Tree Supervisor. If after considering all the salient factors, it is the opinion of the inspector that removal is warranted, permit is issued for removal at the property owner's expense. Permits of this type normally require a replant as a condition of the removal authorization. Prior to issuing the removal permit, the Street

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Division of the Public Works Department is notified of the pending authorization for removal. They in turn inspect the curbing, sidewalk etc. to determine the extent of damaged cement prior to the tree removal. A form letter which accompanies the removal permit indicates the maximum footage of cement that the City will replace, based on their inspection prior to removal. The letter also contains information relative to barricading, lantern service, and other pertinent material.

Permits are issued for removal of trees at property owner's expense where driveways are to be installed, trees which the Department knows are or will be potential trouble-makers, where tree root action is known to be causing sewer stoppage, and various other legitimate and justified reasons.

Asserted nuisance values from falling leaves or annual fruits have never been a basis for issuing permits. These reasons might justify a permit for removal at the owner's expense, but every tree has to be considered individually in order to keep our pitifully underplanted streets from being completely denuded.

Requests for planting trees are processed similarly. Any person or group may file application for permit to plant. Applications have been made available to the various Nurseries for distribution as needed to facilitate this process. Applications may also be obtained upon request from the Park and Recreation Administration Office or the Street Tree Office.

Upon receiving an application for planting, the Division makes an inspection of the location to determine the existing factors. These include width of parkway soil, width of street, overhead and underground facilities, existing plantings, zoning, exposure to coastal conditions, and any other pertinent factors such as lot frontage, driveway width and proximity to intersecting streets. These factors are noted on the application by the Inspector, and based on them a recommendation of the specie, number, spacing and location of the tree or trees is made. A permit is then forwarded to the requestor with the necessary instructions, with the hope that these instructions will be reasonably followed.

A card file is maintained by the Division office on all recommendations made and permits issued. This recommendation is then followed for any additional applications received for the same specific block or street.

In the past, mail or calls requesting trimming service, constituted the broad base upon which the trimming program was organized. This system was not satisfactory in that trimming service was not distributed equitably over the entire City, but confined to areas having a large Palm population, and from which service requests were received at periodic intervals. With the purchase of a powered extension ladder and pneumatically powered tools, the program for trimming Cocos plumosa and Phoenix (Date) Palms has been developed into a more systematic operation. Areas where Cocos and Phoenix Palms make up the major street planting, such as the Mission Hills, Middletown, Kensington, Talmadge Park, Burlingame, Golden Hill and similar areas, are covered completely as a unit operation. Small isolated groups or scattered individual Palms are trimmed on request by ladder crews using manual rather than powered equipment. The above, it must be remembered, it applicable only to the City's Cocos and Phoenix Palm population, which numbers in excess of 30,000 and 8,000 respectively. Any trimming of the remaining 40 or 50,000 broadleaf street trees is done by crews utilizing manual means.

The frequency of trimming of the majority of our Palm population should not be less than once annually. Business streets such as El Cajon Blvd., Broadway etc., must of necessity be trimmed more frequently than once annually. Accordingly the City has attempted to gear its program for a bi-annual trimming of Palms located along these streets. It is felt that more frequent trimming of Palms might be desirable, but the City cannot afford such service, particularly if it is done at the expense of the many thousand young broadleaf trees that are now needing immediate attention, if they are to develop properly.

Up to and including the present time, lack of sufficient crews has handicapped the City's maintenance of many of our young trees. With the rapid growth of the City and the attention of subdivision after subdivision, has come the planting of thousands of young broadleaf trees of all types. The old adage of "as the twig is bent, so the tree is inclined" is particu-

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larly applicable here. Unless preventive pruning and trimming is carried out during the first five years of the tree's life in the ground, the lack of proper structure that results cannot be repaired without drastic and expensive pruning. Trees properly maintained when young, will pay good dividends in low cost maintenance for years.

Had a maintenance program been properly staffed in the past, the constant expense of repeated sidewalk repairing might have been alleviated. It is a basic principle of arboriculture that maintaining proper balance of the tree's exterior structure, or crown, also retards the activity of the root system. However, the majority of our street trees were allowed to grow without benefit of this restrictive pruning, with the result that root action likewise grew rampant. Lacking deep soil to grow into, the root system spread laterally, rupturing sidewalks, curbs, driveways or anything else in its path. It is true that proper specie selection of trees would have forestalled some of the damage, but even this will not replace a planned program of preventive maintenance.

The need for specialized rope crews for the high trimming and pruning of our large population of Eucalypti and other specimen trees, has long been recognized. It was not until 1952 that a qualified ropeman was added to the staff. In 1955 an additional rope crew was authorized. These two crews comprising one ropeman and helper, each have the impossible task of attempting to remedy the accumulation of at least fifty years of unrestricted growth. The Division is not confined to street trees in this regard. The thousands of mature Eucalypti trees in Balboa and other City parks are also a large part of this program. The value of this type of trimming cannot be overemphasized. Prior to safety pruning of the Eucalypti along the western portion of El Cajon Blvd., the Division had repeated instances of potentially costly limb drops. Since the pruning was completed some 12-14 months ago, there has not been one instance of large limbs breaking off. The success of this phase of street tree maintenance speaks for itself.

Line clearance for traffic signal systems, pump systems and other communication systems under the jurisdiction of the Electric Division, as well as necessary line clearance for fire alarm systems, is also the function of rope crews.

Traffic Engineering, Street Division and Sanitation Division, and the Police Department, constantly request trimming service of the Division. These are primarily for clearance for traffic visibility particularly at intersections. Clearance is made for sweeper and road surfacing equipment, and sanitation trucks, both in the street and in alleys.

On September 1 of this year a survey of the City's Street Trees was begun. This survey is intended to be the basis of a future planned planting, replacement and maintenance program for the entire City. It is hoped that budgetary limitation will not preclude implementation of this program at an early date. This entire phase of street tree work is long overdue and delay can only result in increasing maintenance costs.

New plantings, removal and replacement planting, public relations and enforcement of established policies and ordinances are some of the questions that should be answered at an early date.

EDITOR'S NOTE

Jerome Belleau (pronounced Bellow), the man behind the Street Tree Desk, filled the position vacated by William F. Bishop in January, 1953. He was graduated from Michigan State in 1940 with a degree in horticulture. He served four and a half years overseas in World War II and attained the rank of Lieutenant Colonel in the Air Force.

Following the war he worked for two and a half years on the propagation ranch of Armstrong Nurseries in Ontario, California, and then came to San Diego in 1949 when he worked on the development of Mission Bay — collecting seeds, growing, and planting. As he puts it:

"I was in on the early spade work."

After Mr. Belleau has described the background and function of his office, we can see why:

"It Is Necessary to Get a Permit to Plant, Trim, or Remove Trees From City Property."

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The author, Rhodes Scholar and authority on Early Music lived in San Diego in 1947, when he wrote about his favorite plants. He is now in Honolulu.

Fragrant White Flowers

By Austin Faricy

Fragrance is perhaps the most enchanting dimension of a garden. The images evoked are often tantalizingly difficult to capture. Who has not been vividly reminded, on a sudden whiff of fragrance, of *something,* and yet been unable to tell *what?*

Fragrance is less likely to come unsought in southern California than in regions of a moister air and of the same day and night temperature; our hot dry days and cool nights do not favor such unforgettable redolence as the wallflowers of Oxford or the violets of Ravenna. That it is possible in San Diego to have a year-round procession of ravishing scents, is what this article aims to show; not only that, but the year on which it is based was spent with most of the plants huddled in gallon and five-gallon cans on a hillside pitilessly swept by a hot dusty wind. What could not be achieved in a walled garden or a lath-house?

The selection indicated by the title is not as arbitrary as might appear, for a surprising number of the most fragrant flowers are white. But the gorgeous, scentless, white camellias and tuberous begonias and callas will not find a place here, nor the beloved lily-of-the-valley and white lilacs and hood, which languish without the rigors of a real winter. And some hyacinths from my Minnesota boy-things that have not so far favored me with a performance will have to wait their turn in some other report.

At the risk of sophistry, we might begin with some flowers which come in a whole palette of colors—carnations, stocks, snapdragons, sweet peas, petunias. But since they all do have white forms, they get in, and since they are some of the most familiar flowers, and in bloom most of the year, they head the list. Unfortunately, white petunias are seldom the really opulent ones, and the breeders of sweet peas seem to have a mind to improve everything else about the flower, and breed out its unimprovable fragrance. Years ago, I once saw in the catalog of a fashionable eastern seedsman, after pages of the fluffy-duffy super-duper sweet peas, a little box with the listing "Sweet Peas: the old-fashioned sweet-smelling kind." That seedsman is a man after my own heart, and I apologize that I cannot remember his name.

Some of the strictly white flowers, however, are in scattered or intermittent bloom most of the year. *Bouvardia humboldti* comes along any time, particularly if you keep several plants and pinch them back at different times, to flower in a floppy yet elegant cluster and release suddenly their fragrance like a soapy Easter-lily. *Osmanthus fragrans,* the Sweet Olive, offers its shy but dependable flowers during any but the hottest months, and charms you by smelling the way a raspberry tastes. Citruses such as the dwarf lemons and limes will diffuse their fragrance in the midday sun of summer or winter, particularly if you value their fragrance enough to keep them for the flowers alone, and get your fruit elsewhere.

One or other of the gardenias may flower at any time—or, the disillusioned might say, at no time. For countless people acquire gallon gardenias in bright anticipation of an endless corsage, and receive instead an endless disappointment. But I think I have licked that, and herewith offer my hard-won wisdom, viz:

1. Buy more than one. A single gardenia will tantalize you like a single strawberry plant. With a lot you can afford to be blase.
2. Make up your mind to admire them for their handsome foliage, and consider the flowers a wholly unexpected and unmerited reward.
3. Regard the dropping buds as a natural disbudding, a favor done you by the gardenia to save you the bother you have with carnations and camellias.

Follow these instructions—and give them lots of food and drink and a place in ample but not searing sun—and they will flower with opulence. Water them with your tears and they will die.

The familiar *Gardenia veitchii* is the most free-flowering. The handsome Mystery has big flowers that will take your breath away, and has them dependably, but over a rather short season. Even more narrowly seasonal is little *G. radicans,* but it is such an exquisite miniature that you will want to carry it around with you. And if you are lucky enough to find any, don't miss a chance to get *Gar-*

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denia thunbergia, with its profuse single flowers in geometric whorls —which as like as not you will have to help out of the last half-inch of their tightly twisted overcoats, and then watch while they finish unfolding before your very eyes.

Halfway between shrubs and vines are the true jasmines, many of which are continuous, or at least intermittent, in bloom. The most familiar is *Jasminum grandiflorum,* with its sparse foliage and scrambling habit, and dotted perpetually with the charming, unsubstantial flowers, which keep you marveling that so slight a blossom can carry so heavy a fragrance. Quite otherwise is *J. sambac* Grand Duke—lopsided, ugly, and squat, with fleshy, too double flowers of dirty white hugging the branches. The eye derives no pleasure from this po'r beat-up thing, but to smell it is to be transported into the Arabian Nights—and all is forgiven.

Another sambac jasmine, Maid of Orleans, is far more presentable in appearance, with loosely semi-double flowers hidden in the leafy arching branches. The flowers turn purple as they go: just the reverse of *Brunfeldsia floribunda,* which comes out deep purple and bleaches by the third day to white, a charming little shrub. *Jasminum rigidum (ligustrifolium)* is of unusual trim and neat bright foliage, and it is something of a shock to discover that in flower it is a messy housekeeper, retaining all the old dead flowers it should have discarded days ago. Gold-coast Jasmine, *J. dichotomum* is the truest vine of these jasmines, with beautiful glossy leaves, and leisurely flowers in soft clusters and a honeyish sweetness, very pervasive at night.

Heaven knows how many other flowers are called jasmines of one kind or another—Chilean Jasmine, Night Jasmine, Star Jasmine. The last, *Trachelospermum jasminoides,* if we are to insist on calling it jasmine, should be called Nutmeg Jasmine, which is an accurate description of its fragrance. A handsome vine with pretty whorled flowers, it is not ever-blooming when settled, but newly propagated plants flower when they get ready, and nursery stock can be found in flower at almost any time, spring through late fall.

Two other virtually ever-blooming vines are Climbing Mock-Orange, and Honeysuckle. The first, *Philadelphus mexicanus,* is straggly and stringy and perpetually in need of a manicure—possibly because it is cheerful in adversity and often found there, offering frugally but persistently its f r i e n d l y four-petalled flowers. Honeysuckle, *Lonicera japonica halliana,* is to an even greater extent a creature of neglect and abuse; it never seems to get pruned or thinned, and looking for the source of the dear familiar fragrance we find it overwhelming some rotted fence or crazy shed. Such rankness, however, does not become it, and I propose to pillar it on a stout post.

The last flowers of fall are still holding on when the earliest flowers of our list, Paper-White Narcissus, begin studding the garden with their nodding bunches. So strong is the northern tradition of forcing them in pebbles and water, that they seem almost out of place in the garden, but indoors or out, fair means or foul, we must have them, and there can never be too many.

The daphnes are winter-blooming, and though usually pink and lavender, *D. odora* often enough bleaches to white to be included here. Certainly its lively, spicy fragrance merits inclusion anywhere; unfortunately, daphnes seem hard to please in southern California, and a vigorous plant is always a cause for exclaiming. But even though they die every August and have to be treated like annuals, as some desperate gardeners treat lilies, it is worth the expenditure to have at least one plant full of its stubby little flower-clusters in midwinter.

The familiar, rather coarse Summer Lilac has a slender relative that blooms in winter, and that is *Buddleia asiatica.* It is not admirable in its habit, being all rangy canes of no substance or direction, nor in the color of its flowers, being a nondescript yellowish-white, but its fragrance is something Out of This World—a superlative I do not use lightly.

Presently come freesias, and again the cup overflows. If you haven't them already, cadge them from the naturalized plantings of your friends (and do it while they are in sight—the freesias, that is —by the time you wait for them to ripen there won't be a trace), because the ones you buy are being bred up to the size of gladiolus, nearly as bright and nearly as scentless; when will some bulb catalog offer "the old-fashioned sweet-smelling kind" like the sweet peas?

As the moist days of spring give way to the heat of summer, the main burst of white fragrance occurs. To the bedding plants still holding on from early spring, alyssum and mignonette can be added, alyssum with its dry, laundered, airy scent, and mignonette with its intimate charm. Alyssum is indestructible, but mignonette is capricious, and much prefers to decide for itself where to grow, or to stow away on a pot of something

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else. It diffuses its fragrance in the warmth of the day, but burns up in bright sun.

Night-scented Tobacco *Nicotiana affinis* has a wonderful heavy evening fragrance where nights are warm; where they are cool, the exhalation is shortened or inhibited and the plants are obstinate in their refusal of fragrance before dusk. Little Stevia *Stevia serrata* or *Piqueria trinervia* is supposed to be another indestructible, but from seed, at least, I have had scant luck with it. The very mere, baby's-breathy flowers have a warm, close fragrance.

Several summer bulbs and tubers are gorgeous to smell: tuberoses and lilies and ginger. The tuberose *Polyanthes tuberosa* is incomparable; plant it in pots so that you can carry them around and bring them inside, and if the odor becomes too heavy—which it may —take them out again. Lilies tend to get demoralized in southern California; they are strongly seasonal, and to have no regular four seasons confuses them. As a result, the Regals and Formosanums of mid-summer and late fall may be all through by early summer, and disheartened about another year. Fortunately, both are cheap enough to warrant having at least a few for annuals. Ginger, *Hedychium coronarium* is rank in growth and tropical in scent. It can be very reluctant to bloom, but once started, takes over. Neither full sun nor full shade seems to its liking, but that combination so easy to say and so difficult to achieve, of shade at the roots and sun for the tops. And plenty of food and drink. The flower heads go on and on, and the plant keeps pushing up new spikes into November.

Of shrubby plants, several are summer-blooming; Murraya and Choisya are admirable first for their elegance of habit and refinement of foliage; the intermittent white flowers are rather undistinguished, though pleasant, and smell something like corn-flakes and Dutch Cleanser, respectively. And of course the so-called Night-blooming Jasmine, *Cestrum nocturnum*. This one is too much for me; like bagpipes, it is best at a half mile.

Two summer vines may be added here: *Mandevilla suaveolens*, rather unsubstantial and disappointing in foliage and habit, but prodigal with its bunches of opulent white flowers when established; and *Stephanotis floribunda*, with both leaves and flowers of a highly formal finish. Stephanotis is very slow to start, and will remain immobile for months, but once started, you have to get out of its way like the famous George Price vine in the New Yorker.

Many of these go on into the late fall, but the last place in our procession is reserved for an October arrival, to continue through December—the Chrysanthemum. Its sumptuousness of form and color can make one forget it has a fragrance—and, like calendulas and marigolds, not everyone likes the one it has—but for some of us its close, aromatic scent, as much as the smell of burning leaves, means the end of the garden year.

Gifts That Are Different

ALICE M. CLARK

It is my firm belief that Californians can use plants indoors in the winter to even better advantage than their eastern cousins. Living green materials are a special addition to modern homes, with plenty of light from window walls, but aren't you all a bit weary of the repetitious philodendrons and dieffenbachias? To be sure, they serve beautifully in difficult dark spots, but it is time to brighten up with a few begonias.

Gifts of some of the new rhizomatous begonias that have surged on the market in the last ten years as the result of a stimulating wave of renewed interest in hybridizing, will bestow endless pleasure on the recipient. The plants are really choice and different because they are derived from crossing some very decorative begonia species, recently introduced to this country.

For two years I have raised a plant of Congo, in the house. It is now three feet high, with four stalks of broad leaves whose pale veins radiate to the tips of three or more points. A light green center gleams like an eye against the very dark satin-green of the upper surface. When light strikes the plant, the red backs of the leaves glow like a sunset. Glendale and Joe Hayden are much the same in color and texture, but the leaves are star-shaped. The former won the Alfred D. Robinson Medal of the American Begonia Society, for the best 1950 hybrid. Helen Krauss has smaller, thicker, wondrous waxy leaves, with marbled brown markings. Another pretty one is Bright Eyes.

Then there are those fine standbys of the Gay Nineties, so old they are new. Let's revive the plain, ruffled or spiraled forms of *Begonia erythrophylla,* known as Feasti or Beefsteak. They love house culture. There is still nothing to eclipse *B. manicata aurea,* with its light blotches of pink,

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pale yellow and chartreuse, with fantastic hairy red bracelets on the back. Flowers look pale beside it.

A large group of new cultivars are derived from the dwarf species named *B. boweri,* for Constance Bower, a contributor to this magazine and one of San Diego's fine begonia hybridizers. These plants all have a full crown of foliage, without the unright stalks. Most of the leaves are cut like maples, with various striped or mottled markings of red, or bronze, and almost black, often against a chartreuse background. Sometimes they have long eyelashes on the edges, like their Bower parent. Verbob is one of this type that was awarded the 1951 Robinson Medal of the American Begonia Society. Maphil is a favorite of mine that is almost as cheerful as *Manicata aurea.* It even holds its leaves outdoors, all winter. Which reminds me that the foliage of these plants creates much interest when used in flower arrangements and keeps very well.

Culture is easy. Do not let the pot stand in water. Water only when *dry.* Once a month give a light feeding of soluble fertilizer. Unless the weather is very warm, the direct rays of winter sun will do no harm. The more light, the more lush the growth and color.

Visit your begonia nursery early and have fun selecting a different plant for each friend, then relax until X Day, when you will be greeted with exclamations of delight.

Christmas Book Gifts

ADA MCLOUTH

If, like Al Poska (KFI at midnight), you are a "paper-stuffer into pockets," book lists make the very best stuffing, and now is the time.

THE MAGIC WORLD OF FLOWER ARRANGING, by Myra J. Brooks and others. *New York, M. Barrows, 1956. $10.00.*

The author and two photographers, Mary Alice and John P. Roche, set up an imaginary flower show and built the text around it. There are 99 illustrations, of which 16 are in color. It is expected that this book will become a standard reference for exhibitors.

HOW TO MAKE CUT FLOWERS LAST, by Victoria R. Kasperski. *New York, M. Barrows, 1956. $2.95.*

Visitors to Mount Vernon may have seen arrangements by the author who has long been in charge of flowers for the mansion.

Her text is a thorough treatment of an involved subject, based on her own experience as well as scientific research by various agencies. Chapters on general practices are followed by an A to Z list of plant materials, giving specific instructions for each. The amateur will find the use of Miss Kasperski's text saves time, saves flowers. For the professional and teacher it should prove invaluable.

BONSAI, MINIATURE TREES, by Claude Chidamian. *Princeton, N. J., D. Van Nostrand, 1956. $3.95.*

The growing literature on this subject, very sparse even five years ago, can hardly keep up with the growing interest. The difficulty of importing these dwarfed trees because of restrictions imposed under Plant Quarantine Law No. 37 has stimulated the desire to grow them. The book contains information on the importation of such plants. The difficulties and failure involved have prompted many to learn the abstruse art of Bonsai. They discover the satisfaction of creating and owning the living tree and its landscape in miniature. The text is clear, the drawings informative, and the photographs convey the remote charm of a good Bonsai.

GARDEN SPICE AND WILD POT-HERBS, by Walter Conrad Leopold Muenscher and Myron Arthur Rice. *Comstock Publishing Association, 1956. $5.75.*

Fifty-six wood engravings by Elfriede Abbe, and its unusual typography, give this book a resemblance to the old herbals. It is useful for identification, includes description, culinary and medical uses, propagation and range of the plants discussed.

THE COMPLETE BOOK OF GREENHOUSE GARDENING, by Henry T. and Rebecca T. Northen. *Ronald Press Co., 1956. $6.50.*

The authors of this very complete manual are well-known botanists and authors of other garden books. They are experienced in greenhouse operation. Construction of greenhouses is dealt with. All phases of greenhouse operation and plant culture under glass are given clear step-by-step treatment. Plants in wide variety are divided into fifteen chapters by family, in character as different as the orchid and the cactus. There is help here for the beginner as

well as for the more advanced grower, the hobbyist, or one who seeks financial return. 210 illustrations add much to the book's usefulness and appeal.

WINDOW-BOX GARDENING, by Henry Teuscher. *New York, The Macmillan Co., 1956. $3.95.*

This comprehensive book, said to be the first on a subject previously covered only in chapters of garden books or in scattered sources, includes tubs and hanging baskets as planters. The author is Curator of the Montreal Botanical Garden, where he has directed experiments in this type of plant culture, and promoted a city-wide competition. Thus all plants recommended in the text have been selected on the basis of thorough tests. The photographs of boxes of blooming plants are enticing, the drawings are clear. That most delightful feature of a garden book, the plant list where one may browse, looking up one's favorites or renewing acquaintance with forgotten ones, includes more than one hundred species suitable for window boxes. Surprisingly one finds here that sprawling giant of old California gardens, plumbago. It is pleasant to note our native California poppy, nemophila, and phacelia, in this context.

Appendices and index make this a handy reference book. In all, it is an attractive gift for one who practices this form of gardening. It is not too different from the use of planting boxes, so popular in the West.

GREENHOUSE GARDENING AROUND THE YEAR, by Marion Dulles. *New York, The Macmillan Co., 1956. $3.75.*

Mrs. Dulles, who lives in Ohio, the wife of a university professor, extends her gardening by means of a greenhouse, keeping the cold months gay and fragrant with flowers, berries and foliage. The book is based on her own experience.

The chapters are divided by months. The greenhouse year, in her operation, starts in September and ends in August. Her greenhouse-keeping is highly organized. She recommends the use of a card catalog with an entry for each plant grown, also a scratch pad at hand in the work area, and a diary to record succession of bloom and general performance.

Mrs. Dulles' account is highly personal, enlivened by such incidents as bringing into the greenhouse a large cocoon, from which hatched a myriad of praying mantises.

Of the three types of greenhouses, cool, intermediate, and hot, she chose to have a cool house, so the practices described refer to that type of glasshouse. Homely procedures, such as filling a nylon stocking with manure and hanging it in a bucket to obtain liquid manure are recommended.

Appendices list plant materials with description and cultural directions. Sources of seeds and plants and greenhouses are listed. Glossary and index make this book functional as well as delightful reading.

ABC OF ORCHID GROWING, by John V. Watkins. *3rd ed. Englewood Cliffs, N. J., Prentice-Hall, 1956. $3.50.*

This recognized authority knows orchid growing as a "time-consuming, painstaking and exacting pursuit." He deplores a tendency to present it as an idle hour interest. As Associate Professor of Horticulture at the University of Florida he is in position to give the latest information on pests and diseases in the form of a chart for mixing sprays, baits and soils. There are twenty-four new photographs. The use of orchids in landscape, as in California, Florida, and tropical countries is given a chapter of special interest. A convenient table on the end papers gives briefly the cultural demands of twenty-five kinds of orchids. Glossary and index are included.

Some other revised editions are: ROSES FOR EVERY GARDEN, by Raymond Clayton Allen. *New York, M. Barrows, 1956. $4.50;* Cynthia Westcott's GARDENER'S BUG BOOK, completely rewritten and reset. *Doubleday, 1956. $7.50;* and three books by our own Alfred Carl Hottes, revised by the late E. L. D. Seymour. BOOK OF PERENNIALS. *New York: De La Mare — Dodd, Mead. $4.50* BOOK OF ANNUALS, *New York: De La Mare—Dodd, Mead. $4.50,* and HOW TO INCREASE HOUSE PLANTS, 8th. ed. *New York: Dodd, Mead, 1956. $3.50.* (paper bound.)

ALICE EASTWOOD'S WONDERLAND, by Carol Green Wilson. *San Francisco, California Academy of Sciences, 1955. $5.00.*

Mrs. Wilson's inspiring account of the life of the resolute woman who for fifty-five years was Curator of the San Francisco Academy of Sciences and Head of the Department of Botany is welcomed by all students of botany.

THE TRIUMPH OF THE TREE, by John Stewart Collis. *William Sloane, 1954. $3.50.*

Directed toward those dedicated to conservation, the author develops his thesis by excursions into folklore, ethnology, religion, agriculture, literature, as indicated in the chapter headings, six-page bibliography, and references to the "GOLDEN BOUGH." It can be read as a serious treatise and warning, presented with extravagant feeling. It can be enjoyed for the wide-ranging views of the life of

men bound up forever with the life of trees.

GROUND COVER PLANTS, by Donald Wyman. *New York, The Macmillan Co., 1956. $4.75.*

Dr. Wyman, Professor at the University of Michigan, and well-known writer in the field of horticulture, has given us a much-needed book on a subject of great interest to California gardeners. He has made a special study of the performance of various ground covers. His account is useful to dirt and landscape gardeners. It is illustrated and indexed.

LAWNS AND LANDSCAPING HANDBOOK, by Thomas H. Everett. *New York, Arco Publishing Co., 1956. $2.00.*

Well-known among how-to-do-its are the Arco books. Originally, how to pass civil service examinations, they are branching into other fields. Confidence is inspired by sorting out of a welter of facts the most essential information and presenting it in a form easy to understand and make use of.

Equally well-known in his field is the author, Curator of Education and Horticulturist of the New York Botanical Garden.

As the title indicates he deals most extensively with lawn culture. Special chapters on crab grass and grubs are included. It is well illustrated with drawings and photographs.

SUNSET BOOKS: HOW TO INSTALL AND CARE FOR YOUR LAWN. *1955. $1.00;* SUNSET LANDSCAPING FOR WESTERN LIVING. *1956. $2.00. Menlo Park, Calif., Lane Publishing Co.* (paper bound)

We all depend on our SUNSET BOOKS for first and last aid in any phase of gardening. The recent two on lawns and landscaping are, of course, no exception. By graphic means the technics of lawn growing are explained and a chart evaluates twenty-eight grasses. The one on landscaping is based on the work of fifty western landscape men and is intended for the small property owner who will do much of the work himself.

Also in this field, do not forget a book reviewed earlier this year: GARDENS ARE FOR PEOPLE, by Thomas D. Church. *Reinhold, $10.00.*

A GUIDE TO HOME LANDSCAPING, by Donald J. Bushey. *New York, McGraw-Hill, 1956. $4.95.*

The author, an extension specialist at Cornell University, presents the problem of home grounds layout in eleven easy steps. That is, the presentation is easy, the steps may prove hard. He does not emphasize modern design, inclines to the traditional.

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GARDEN DESIGN ILLUSTRATED, by John A. Grant and Carol L. Grant, *Seattle, University of Washington Press, 1954. $5.75.*

The Grants have produced a stimulating book on the prinicples of design, amply illustrated with photographs and drawings. Practical as a textbook or manual, it transcends such use.

John A. Grant is a teacher and practitioner of the art of garden design. The work described in the book was done in the Pacific Northwest. It does not differ as radically from Southern California practice as does that of the eastern seaboard.

In makeup their book exemplifies the authors' standards in matters of taste and scale as it does in organization and clearness of presentation. Mr. Grant is well-known for his articles in HOUSE BEAUTIFUL.

The authors' stated purpose is "to open up vistas . . . through more vivid awareness of the design potential of plant material itself . . . the natural structural simplicity of free-growing plants and the functional simplicity of contemporary architecture."

They contend that "modern architecture is far ahead of modern landscape architecture . . . because so little thought is given to the appreciation of plant material and the particular soil and site of the garden." The special knowledge of the plantsman and the design sense of the garden architect are

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of equal importance in building a garden.

As the "most appealing house is . . . logical outgrowth of site, locality and function, and well-used native and imported materials," so a garden which is the outgrowth of local conditions is the most interesting and practical, easier to keep up, and its value increases with time. The "superimposed garden" more quickly gives evidence of neglect, becomes an increasing problem.

The secret of the permanently, not seasonally, satisfying garden picture lies in recognizing the design potential of trees, shrubs and flowers. Plant material must give the garden its permanent structure.

In regard to the combining of plant materials, the authors give specific advice as to: foliage size and pattern; related use of evergreen and deciduous shrubs; combining plants by naturalistic character; color in the garden, including that of foliage; uses of herbaceous plants.

A formula is given to determine the "rhythmic sequence of texture" in foliage; that is, the number of smaller-leaved shrubs should be larger in a fixed proportion, than the number of larger-leaved ones, to maintain balance in a mixed planting.

Plants which grow together in nature will group together in garden situations, will combine as to color, texture, and form, to create satisfying pictures, and will also simplify upkeep. They may come from widely separated parts of the world, but from the same cultural conditions. They will bring together the right foliage color; as, the gray-green of desert plants, the yellow-green of bog plants. Since foliage color is dominant it is necessary to distinguish between the various greens to create a harmonious garden.

Herbaceous plants should not compete with structure plantings, and vice versa. They are added for seasonal color but are not missed when not in evidence. It is suggested that magenta is, in nature, most often companioned by the gray-green of desert foliage, and is not in harmony with the lush greens of lawns and gardens. There must be a gradual transition to combine varying greens happily. Shrubs are listed in nine different groups, by foliage colors.

There are specific directions on garden color; for instance, "It would take 150 to 200 feet of flower border to work in the full range of warm hues . . . fifty feet should use not more than one-third of the whole warm color sequence." Cool colors seem disappointing when used alone, best as contrast to warm colors. Foliage and flower color relationship is emphasized.

The last chapter deals with a house almost completed before the garden design was considered. The factors which contributed to privacy, illusion of spaciousness, use of plant material in a structural way, year-around interest, temporary and permanent planting, are given in sufficient detail and well illustrated with pictures.

There is a color plate of a beautiful, intricately designed border, and planting plans for the same. As to achieving succession of bloom all season, we are told, "Such promises are like politicians' election speeches." Plans are drawn to illustrate seasonal borders and those for special exposures.

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EDITORIAL BOUQUETS

It may have been noted that the importance of trees is emphasized in these pages. The San Diego Gas and Electric Company deserves a Civic Beautification Award for their 16 page brochure on TREES. Along with a pleasing note, it is sent to every new home owner, (and others, on request.) The cover, in lilting colors, along with other illustrations inside, inspire the desire to plant trees, expert and factual information furthers proper selection, and graphic diagrams show how to start them right. A fine job, very well done. Congratulations!

An interesting plant story comes from Mrs. James Butler, who will be 90 on her birthday, Feb. 13. In 1913, when she lived on Polk St., her son brought home some geranium slips left over from a garden project instigated by Kate Sessions, at the Florence School.

The geraniums thrived and when the family moved to 4252 35th. St. another planting was made from the same stock, which is still blooming, after 32 years. On Arbor Day, March 7, Mrs. Butler hopes to be present when 13 red geraniums will be replanted at the same school where they started 44 years earlier. It is nice to know that Mrs. Butler has kept Miss Sessions' memory and the red geraniums green for so long.

Speaking of Christmas gifts, more copies of "Come into the Garden," by Mrs. Lippitt, are now available, at $1.00 each.

Happy holidays, and good gardening in 1957!

"The understanding of design principles and their application . . . curbs the erratic personal elements and produces more consistently satisfactory design." This reviewer finds the Grants' book the most rewarding yet in its field, getting down to cases, and giving rules for curbing those "erratic personal elements."

Garden Chores

ADA PERRY

There's no getting around the subject for January and February here and if you are hep to it, why don't you pass your California Garden over to a new comer. (The opportunity to suggest a subscription would be large and lustrous at such a time.) It is odd that such a great percentage of requests for fruit trees and roses should come in September, October and November, when the bare root planting time here is January and February. I received a partial explanation the other day when a lady glanced lightly at my regretful countenance and said, "Well of course in Louisiana, we plant roses in November and they bloom in February." I hope she told me true, Louisiana is a closed book to me.

So now that we've got the school bonds passed, let's campaign around our neighborhoods to get our bare roots planted in January and February. This won't benefit us campaigners personally but it will add to the treasures we are laying up in heaven since it will save many a sincere nurserywoman (or man) from beating her or his head with a five gallon can after a day of telling people it is either too early or too late for bare roots.

I am working for another nursery now and the above is amazingly self-interested. You may as well know. However, don't you think that nice woman from Iowa down the street deserves to be told that she should look for her peach tree and her Tiffany rose beginning January 1, 1957? You were from Iowa yourself once, you know.

Speaking of Tiffany roses, some years I feel like listing a gorgeous collection of new varieties. But not this year. I have had some starch taken out of me. Recently I did substitute Tiffany for The Doctor on an important document. To me Tiffany is a beautiful ethereal pink which is fragrant, reasonably disease free, free branching, free blooming and I feel free to recommend it. But the next person I talked to after making the substitution "come at me sidewise." He said he considered Tiffany a very crumby rose compared to The Doctor and furthermore he never had any trouble with E. G. Hill at the beach.

So ask your nurseryman's advice about varieties but it is a free country. If you decide to be as outspoken as my example, just prop the poor man (or poor woman) up against a Cocos plumosus first, to lessen the shock.

All kidding aside, discussion of varieties is excellent because we have so many here. And the procession of bare roots is long. Beginning with the roses it goes through peaches, plums, apricots, figs and persimmons; through grapes, Boysenberries and all the other berries on canes; through strawberries, rhubarb, artichokes and asparagus. You can plant apples and flowering peaches and purple leafed plums and nectarines; and sometimes locust and ash and albizzia shade trees and wisteria vines and lilac and bridal wreath bushes.

A busy season, you can see.

The bare roots are not all, either. You have to prune your roses in January and February and the bare-branch fruit trees you already have. You have to spray with dormant sprays.

The dormant spraying receives a lot of attention from the spray companies because it is an all-around happy situation. You use plenty of their products, both the fungicides and insecticides. It does a lot of good. And they get very little grievious kick-back because it is a safe time to spray. To spray the bare-branch things, that is. With evergreens, you should still be frugal with spray and careful with the applications.

Rose and fruit tree pruning here is more a matter of thinning and developing a well balanced plant, I believe, than forcing new growth. We get plenty of new growth, so hard pruning is not often advised. In fact, we don't have the humid air and the showers and deep rains that bring a plant on after a hard pruning. Isn't the poinsettia about the only plant we prune hard every year? It doesn't require a temperate zone spring to bring it on.

We have to beat the drum pretty hard about planting holes for bare roots every year. For while we have climate, we don't have braggable soil and drainage in a good many instances. Most anybody, without a color test of thumbs, knows that manure improves soil. So a loose collection of high-calorie fed steer, fill dirt and rocks is supposed to produce a rose garden by some of our newer home owners and the blight on their spirits is not funny. Of the three ingredients I mentioned, the rocks will cause the least damage.

So—. Test your soil for alkaline or acid reaction. Mix peat moss and leaf mold with your planting soil. Dig holes that will drain and then when you plant, firm or tamp as you go so distribution through the soil is even. You want to use steer? Here's a tried and true. Dig your holes deep enough so you can put in a layer of well tamped steer with four to 12 inches of planting soil over it.

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